

# The Evening Star

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## Prompt Explanation Needed

Magnifying the shock of the Eighth Army announcement of the murder of 5,500 American prisoners of war in Korea was the manner of its release. The announcement not only took the American people by surprise; it caught the Pentagon off-guard, too. In fact, sources there indicated lack of knowledge of such extensive atrocities and officials said they were asking General Ridgway's headquarters for "clarification." But spokesmen at that headquarters also disclaimed awareness of the release.

If the report from the Eighth Army's judge advocate at Pusan is true, the Army has chosen a strange way in which to acquaint the American public and the world at large with the horrible facts. Almost at the same time that Colonel James M. Hanley was telling war correspondents the revolting details of mass killings of our men, of other U. N. troops and of thousands of civilians by North Korean and Communist Chinese troops the Pentagon was releasing prisoner-of-war figures in sharp conflict with those given out at Pusan. Here the Army was telling the public that of 12,582 Americans listed originally as missing in action, only 183 were known to be dead and 174 captured. The remainder either had escaped or their fate still was unknown.

In contrast, Colonel Hanley went into considerable detail regarding the atrocities he accused the enemy of committing. He told of 200 Marines being slaughtered in one blood-letting, of 1,250 United States prisoners being shot near the Yalu River boundary between September 16 and 18 of last year and of other massacres—all bringing the total of killings of American prisoners to more than 5,500.

These gruesome figures, if substantiated by subsequent "clarification," justify the strong language which Secretary of State Acheson used in condemning Chinese Red barbarism in his address at the Paris conference. They also help to explain the insistence of our true negotiators, at Panmunjon on a definite agreement on exchange of prisoners of war prior to any final cease-fire decision.

But the manner and timing of the release call for explanation by higher authorities. If Colonel Hanley's report of the situation is correct, why has the grim information been kept so long from the American people?

Why has the Defense Department been leading the public to believe that less than 200 of our missing fighters are known to be dead?

Why was so momentous and startling a press release made at a lower level instead of at General Ridgway's headquarters or in Washington? The American people—including particularly the parents of men who have been notified that their sons are missing in action—will demand prompt and satisfactory answers to these questions.

## Late—But Welcome

Secretary of the Treasury Snyder's public acknowledgment that disclosures of corruption in the Internal Revenue Bureau add up to a "blight on the service," and his firm assurance that every effort is being made to ferret out other transgressors, come as tardy but nevertheless welcome manifestations of official determination to clean up a scandalous mess.

It would have been much better if Mr. Snyder had made some such public statement as this months ago. Presumably the bureau was trying quietly to put its own house in order in the hope of avoiding adverse publicity. But that effort has backfired with a vengeance. For the public has been permitted to get the impression, not only that the bureau was riddled with crooks, but that nothing effective would have been done about it if Congress had not forced the responsible officials to act. The people who are paying the world's greatest tax bill cannot be expected to hand over their money willingly to crooked collectors. And if they should ever get the notion that the administration is trying to shield those crooks, the tax-collecting authority would be in for some very hard times.

So it is gratifying that Mr. Snyder has expressed himself in forthright terms. He says that he and the President are determined to clean up the bureau, and he urges any citizen with knowledge of wrongdoing to report such knowledge to the authorities.

This should mean that if any dishonest people are left in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, they will not be there long. In passing, one may express the hope that Mr. Truman and the Attorney General will be equally firm and equally forthright in the case of the Department of Justice.

## To Rid the Rolls of Chiselers

Virginia's State Board of Public Welfare believes that the people who pay the relief rolls have a right to know that their money is being spent wisely. That is the sensible reasoning behind the board's decision to ask the General Assembly to open the State's relief rolls to public inspection. The action is in line with the intent of Congress in lifting the Federal restriction on public-assistance publicity—a restriction which had encouraged chiseling and other misuse of public funds.

There is nothing so repellent to relief racketeers as publicity. That the secrecy policy regarding relief rolls has protected chiselers is evident from recent disclosures in Indiana and other States. The Virginia board, by a five-to-one vote, took cognizance of the revelations elsewhere and several of its members suggested that Virginia's rolls are not free from fraud, either. "I hope there's nothing wrong in Virginia," said Board Member M. W. Armistead III

of Roanoke, "but I have come to believe there are some people trying to ride the relief rolls." Another member agreed with this opinion, stating that he had "accidentally" discovered several relief cases that should never have been on the rolls. If these cases were discovered by chance, it is logical to assume that other cases exist behind the "iron curtain" which has been erected around the relief setup.

It is right, of course, that the relief lists should be guarded against exploitation by commercial, political or other interests having no good reason for wanting to know the names of those receiving aid. The board properly suggested that the Legislature provide "such safeguards as may be deemed appropriate to prevent improper use" of the rolls. But the restrictions should not be so drastic as to prevent inspection by reporters or other investigators bent on discovering and exposing relief frauds. Virginia's General Assembly will pave the way for a cleanup of the State's welfare system if it approves the publicity plan recommended by the welfare board.

Our own Board of Public Welfare, here in the District, should note with interest the position announced by Virginia's board.

## Major Barrett's Decision

The announcement that Superintendent Barrett has decided to answer all questions in the police questionnaire that are "legally proper, within the scope of the inquiry and which common decency permits" can lead to one of two things.

It can lead to a mutually satisfactory adjustment of the dispute between Major Barrett and the District Commissioners. Senator Neely, who heads the Senate subcommittee which initiated the questionnaire, has said that the police should answer all legally proper questions, and the assistant corporation counsel, in argument before Judge Kirkland, said much the same thing. But there may be a marked difference between the views of Major Barrett and those of the Commissioners as to precisely what questions are decent, legally proper, and within the scope of the inquiry. Furthermore, the Commissioners have pointed out that their order was that all of the questions be answered.

If Major Barrett's reservations should prove unacceptable—and they are broad enough to invite the conclusion that they will not be acceptable to the Commissioners—then the stage will have been set for a court test. Presumably, if he refuses to answer questions which the Commissioners think should be answered, some disciplinary action will be taken against him. And that, in turn, would mean that the way had been opened for an eventual court test of the legality of the contested questions and of the power of the Commissioners, under the circumstances, to require the police to answer them.

As the Star has said before, it believes that many of the questions are irrelevant and some of them are downright silly. But others, such as those designed to reveal a policeman's net worth with a view to determining whether his assets are in excess of his income, are entirely proper questions, and no policeman should seek to escape answering them. If any policeman should be unwilling to answer such questions as these, then every lawful effort should be made to compel him to answer, and appropriate disciplinary action should be taken.

In all fairness to Major Barrett, however, one thing should be pointed out. He cannot avoid a full investigation of his financial status by refusing to answer this questionnaire, and his letter to the Commissioners shows that he is well aware of this fact.

The questionnaire is a dragnet device and the justification offered for it is a plea of convenience. Perhaps it is true that it would be infeasible, or at least quite difficult, for the Senate committee to conduct this investigation by calling each of 350 policemen before it and asking the questions individually. But it would be a simple matter for the committee to summon Major Barrett, or a half a dozen policemen, and put the questions to them. In their cases, that would be just as effective as the questionnaire device, if not more effective. So it should be wholly clear that, whatever his real motives may be, Major Barrett cannot and surely does not expect to escape a thorough investigation of his own affairs by making an issue of this questionnaire.

## Turkey's Answer

With typical forthrightness and independence of spirit, the Turks have avoided polite diplomatic circumlocutions in answering the Kremlin's note warning them against joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The answer is blunt. It makes unmistakably clear that the latest Soviet threat, far from intimidating them, has served merely to intensify their resolve to build up their defenses as fast and as thoroughly as possible and to become full partners in the NATO alliance, not simply to safeguard their own land but also to contribute as much as they can to the joint protection of free Europe as a whole.

Flatly rejecting the phony charge that the Atlantic pact is an instrument of aggression, the Turks have told the Kremlin to undertake "a sincere 'examen de conscience'" if it is really at a loss to understand why the NATO coalition exists and why they are determined to be members. As they have put it, the "examen"—which would require the Soviet rulers to be candid with themselves about what is actually going on in their hearts and minds—would be enough to show that there are "very serious reasons" for the preparations that Turkey has undertaken in concert with the one-for-all-and-all-for-one Western defensive system.

In the words of the Turkish note, "These preparations have not been made because of erroneous and baseless suspicions." Soviet policy in the postwar years has left no room for doubt that free peoples everywhere, if they wish to remain free, must be ready to defend themselves against Communist aggression. Further than that, as far as the Turks themselves are concerned, they cannot forget the Kremlin's persistent demands, threats and pressures aimed at placing Russian military power on their soil to dominate the Dardanelles and otherwise put an end to their territorial integrity and political independence as a prelude to dragging them behind the Iron Curtain.

But the Turks, as they have demonstrated in their past responses to threatening Soviet words, and as they are still demonstrating through the brave deeds of their troops in Korea, do not propose to soften before aggressors or yield up any of their freedom. Instead, as they have now re-emphasized, they are going to keep on doing exactly what they have been doing. That is to say, they are going to join the NATO alliance and arm to whatever extent is needed for self-defense in these dangerous days. Stalin and his colleagues will not like this, but they have received the answer they deserve. Tough-fibered Turkey simply refuses to be bullied or scared into submission.

# Man Who Launched a Raft of Sea Stories

By James Waldo Fawcett

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS is celebrating the centenary of "Moby Dick" with a special exhibition of the first edition and selected examples of more recent printings of the book. It was just 100 years ago that Herman Melville's famous story of the white whale appeared. The tale was important because it established a new and still very popular pattern of writing about the Pacific half of the globe. Among the authors indebted to it have been Charles Warren Stoddard, W. Clark Russell, Robert Louis Stevenson, Pierre Loti, Joseph Conrad, Jack London, Paul Gauguin, A. S. Mowbray, Frederick O'Brien, C. B. Nordhoff and James Norman Hall.

Melville was the literary discoverer of the South Seas. His own biography reads like a novel. Born in New York City, August 1, 1819, he shipped as a cabin boy on the Highlander, bound for Liverpool, at 17. Out of his experience on the trans-Atlantic run he later wrote "Redburn," an expose of conditions of existence among sailors. When his apprenticeship had been served, he signed up on the Acushnet at Fairhaven, opposite New Bedford, January 3, 1841. By October 14, 1844, when he returned to America, via Boston, he had accumulated material which gradually he worked up in "Typee," published in 1846; "Omoo," 1847; "Mardi," 1849; "White Jacket," 1850, and—particularly and most notably—"Moby Dick," 1851.

These productions brought him little in royalties. Melville was famous principally as "the man who lived among cannibals." Professional writers appreciated him—and imitated him—but the general public passed him by. He turned out "Pierre" in 1852, "Israel Potter," 1855; "The Piazza Tales," 1856; "The Confidence-Man," 1857, and four collections of poems, but his career as a literary artist declined until he was all but forgotten. The last three decades of his life were spent in seclusion. He died in New York, September 28, 1891.

But "the most powerful of all the great American writers," as John Freeman calls him, was not destined to be neglected conclusively. In 1919 he was on his way back to fame. New editions of his books appeared—and were pushed aggressively by their publishers, as the originals had not been. Many critics



—Engraving by L. P. Grant.  
HERMAN MELVILLE.

and commentators took him up. In 1921 Prof. Raymond M. Weaver of Columbia University brought out a study of "Herman Melville: Mariner and Mystic." Since then a considerable literature has developed around the creator of "Moby Dick."

The story of the white whale, however, still needs reappraisal and comprehension by a larger public. Leon Howard says: "Those who have taken their clue from the title and considered Moby Dick the hero have variously seen him as a symbol of the primitive forces of nature, of the deep subconscious energies of mankind, or of fate and destiny, and they have interpreted the fable of the book as teaching that the individual person, the conscious ego, or the illusion of free will cannot successfully oppose such greater power. Others, assuming that the (captain) Ahab was the hero, have read the book as an allegory of the spirit of man bravely defying either some undefined evil, or such specific things as economic privilege, superstition of one sort or another, or the physical and psychological hardships of life. To them the book is an expression of Melville's own antagonism toward the world in which he lived, and they see in it an intense display of the rebelliousness which appeared to characterize the author's personal behavior and his other

# Letters to The Star

Pen-names may be used if letters carry writers' correct names and addresses. All letters are subject to condensation.

## Heroes and Politics

It is surprising that in all the buzzing about the possible nomination of General Eisenhower for President both those promoting his nomination and those opposed assume that he would be tremendously popular as a candidate. Such statements as, "If he is nominated by the Republicans, he will carry all the Southern States," and "There can be no doubt about his popularity," pass unchallenged.

That unjustified assumption is caused in part by confusing military with political popularity. When a general returns from a war which his armies have won, millions of applauding citizens crowd the streets to see him and express their joy with showers of confetti and ticker tape. But that does not mean that they would vote for him for President, especially after the feverish demonstration has been cooled by the lapse of time.

Since General Eisenhower has never been a political candidate, there is no record by which his vote-getting ability can be judged. Other military heroes have been elected President, but none since Grant's unfortunate administration. Winning an election now involves a number of conditions that were absent several generations ago.

The difference between military and political popularity was illustrated in the record of General MacArthur. In spite of the wild enthusiasm over his success in the war he received relatively few votes in the 1948 Wisconsin primary election. Whatever opinion one might have of Eisenhower's qualifications for President, one must admit that his political popularity is an unknown factor.

George Frederick Miller.

## Virginia Teachers' Pay

A recent article states the Virginia Education Association has again increased a \$2,000 to \$3,200 annual salary scale for teachers with Bachelor's degrees. An additional \$200 a year was requested for teachers with Master's degrees. The General Assembly was called upon to provide the funds.

Requests for a scale of \$2,400-\$3,600 and \$3,000-\$4,000 were voted down by the V. E. A. convention. The reason given was that the legislature would not approve a scale above the \$2,000-\$3,200 level. It was also noted that some Virginia counties would be unable to pay even the minimum scale approved.

On the other hand, Congress has just approved a pay raise for Government classified employees which establishes a scale for those in grade GS-1 (the lowest Civil Service rating) to \$2,500-\$2,980. Preparation for teaching school requires years of study and considerable expense. The profession of teaching today carries a responsibility difficult to over-exaggerate, and requires a maximum of understanding, perseverance, tact and professional competence.

And yet a Government GS-1—a job

requiring a very minimum of educational background and no training—receives a starting salary of \$500 a year more than that of school teachers in Virginia counties which are able to meet the approved scale.

Why is there so little premium placed today on educational background and professional ability? Why such indifference to the "proper" development and guidance of our children? For surely as this trend persists, the more difficult it will become to retain capable people in the teaching profession with the inevitable lowering of our educational standards and the endangering of our future national welfare and security.

I am not connected with the teaching profession, but a much concerned parent and citizen.

R. T. R.

## School Aid Bill

Of course some Republicans and all Democrats will seek to discount President Truman's veto of the bill granting Federal aid for educational facilities in and about Army encampments, which bill was amended to provide for education to follow the pattern of the local community. This "sleeper" would have made it mandatory to segregate pupils racially. The President's reason for vetoing was good statesmanship and helped show our opposition to Nazism in the United States.

Although some editors and many politicians decry the oft-times used clichés relating the Negro problem to foreign affairs, we read in the daily press of an interview with Mrs. Eugene Anderson, Ambassador to Denmark, of her concern for this national weakness. Of the questions most often asked her by Europeans, one is, "What about the Negro problem and United States democratic principles?" Mrs. Anderson replied: "It is not easy to explain the discrepancy between our words and our deeds. The Danes know that there are areas in the United States where basic civil rights are denied Negroes, and these unfavorable actions reach the headlines, while progress made in racial equality rarely gets in print."

Perhaps President Truman's recent veto message will cancel out some bad public relations on the racial level.

E. B. Henderson.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

## Traditions Sabotaged?

A well-established policy of aggressors that take over a country either by force of arms or peaceful penetration is to eradicate the institutions, customs and traditions of the conquered people. On that basis, it is well for Americans to consider trends in our own country.

For over 100 years Americans celebrated their traditional Thanksgiving festival on a late Thursday of November. Came a movement to change the day. Determined opposition resulted in several States refusing to observe the

new date fixed by Federal proclamation. The confusion ended when the original day was definitely established.

Ten years ago, a determined campaign was carried on to scrap our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," and substitute a bit of jangle attractively yelped, "God Bless America." One bit of propaganda described "God Bless America" as the "streaming emblazon of the new national anthem" hanging "from the very battlements of heaven." American common sense let it hang there.

Currently, other propagandists seek to place another flag above the Stars and Stripes. This in furtherance of the drive to scrap our sovereignty and substitute world government. This year the propaganda scheme is to influence, not to say coerce, school children to contribute pennies to build a fountain in the New York United Nations Building. Informed parents and understanding educators are not confused.

Franklin Hichborn.

Santa Clara, Calif.

## The Munitions Makers

President Truman's Armistice Day speech was disappointing and especially inappropriate to the occasion.

He chanted the same old time-worn refrain from the theme song of the munitions makers, who are the only winners of wars, that the hope of peace depends on ever-increasing strength of arms.

When, in all of recorded history, has vast preparation for war prevented war?

If the thesis were sound, how account for the fact that various small nations such as Switzerland and Sweden and others adjacent to powerful belligerents, have managed to escape involvement in both World Wars?

Theresa H. Russell.

## Put Joe on Your List

There is so much talk against the Russians and Stalin and the newspapers are so filled with the idea of war, that it has occurred to me that possibly if a kind word to the Russian ruler were spoken at this time he might be so taken aback that it might cause him to smile and some of the tension might be relieved.

The Good Book says, "A soft answer turneth away wrath" and we have all seen this happen many times. Will Rogers used to say that if they would put him on the League of Nations there wouldn't be any more wars for he would see that everybody's anger would be relieved.

Now we all know that there is some good in everybody, so why not try to reach the good spot in Stalin? I propose that we all send him a Christmas card with some nice sentiment thereon. If several millions of people would do this he might smile and even go so far as to thank the American people.

Subscriber.

# The Political Mill

## Tempo of Race Increases For G. O. P. Nomination

Gov. Warren Entry Is Hailed By Eisenhower Supporters

By Gould Lincoln

The tempo of the race for the 1952 Republican nomination for President increased tremendously this week, with the announcement by Gov. Earl Warren of California he would be a candidate and with the plans for a Nation-wide Eisenhower-for-President "draft" announced by Senator Duff of Pennsylvania and former Senator Harry Darby of Kansas.

The Warren entry, moreover, has given an entirely new twist to the political race. The contest up to that time had been regarded as one between Senator Taft of Ohio and Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower—although Gen. Eisenhower had remained silent as the grave about his own candidacy. Gov. Warren, Gov. Driscoll of New Jersey and other potential nominees were in the so-called dark horse category, men who might step in and gather the prize if the Republican National Convention finds itself deadlocked. With Gov. Warren now as an avowed candidate, Gen. Eisenhower becomes the man who might step in and resolve the difficulties in the national convention.

In fact, the immediate reaction of the Eisenhower supporters was to welcome the Warren candidacy. They would be glad to see some more candidates avowedly in the race. "The more the merrier," as one of them said. They look on Gen. Eisenhower as "the people's candidate"—in contrast to Senator Taft and Gov. Warren, who may split up the more strictly professional politician support.

## Warren Highly Regarded.

Gov. Warren is no slouch of a candidate, however. He is highly regarded in many quarters and has been talked of frequently as a possible rallying post for those Republicans who are opposed to a Taft nomination, particularly should Gen. Eisenhower declare himself strictly "unavailable." Gov. Warren is a friendly man whom people "like." Furthermore, he will go to the convention backed by one of the largest delegations—that of California, now on all fours with Pennsylvania in the number of delegates.

The decision of Messrs. Duff and Darby—who have been in the forefront of the Eisenhower movement—to establish national Eisenhower-for-President headquarters, along with headquarters in the various States, means they intend to put the issue to the test of public sentiment. On the reaction of the people will depend the Eisenhower candidacy. Gen. Eisenhower, it appears clear, will get into the race if he is convinced the people really want him. His supporters are taking the big gamble, with their coming drive for Eisenhower support. They feel confident the results will be convincing—and they have to convince the general.

The Eisenhower drive will be in the hands of men who know their way around in politics. The fact that backed Gov. Dewey of New York and won him two presidential nominations are at work already in the interest of the general. However, the effort will be to show that Gen. Eisenhower is the "grass roots" selection of the Republican Party and great emphasis will be laid on the fact he is a Midwesterner and as he described himself to Roy Roberts of the Kansas City Star, "an old-fashioned Kansas Republican."

## Seek Campaign Manager

Messrs. Duff and Darby are expected to appoint Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., of Massachusetts to be the campaign manager. Senator Lodge has been a strong supporter of the Eisenhower movement and as campaign manager he soon would announce the details of the organization—and a national committee to work in the general's interest.

Already, Eisenhower supporters say, they have made a sufficient canvass in many States to indicate that millions of Republicans want the general as their presidential nominee. They point to the East and New England, to the Pacific Coast, especially Oregon and Washington, and to the Midwest and South-west, and also to the South as hotbeds of Eisenhower support. They contend that Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska particularly are focal points of Eisenhower strength in the Midwest.

The coming Eisenhower drive must show results—big results—if the general is to be nominated. They do not have to come all at once, but they must be progressively good. His supporters, too, must decide whether his name is to be entered in the presidential preferential primaries—in New Hampshire, Minnesota, Oregon, Nebraska Wisconsin and other States. Already, plans have been made to enter him in some of them.

## Questions and Answers

The Star's readers can get the answer to any question of fact by either writing The Evening Star, Information Service, 1200 14th St. N.W., Washington 5, D. C., or telephoning 97-7363.

## By THE HASKIN SERVICE.

Q. What became of Valentino's widow, Natacia Rambova?—R. M.  
A. Winifred Shaughnessy (daughter of Mrs. Edgar de Wolfe) married (after Valentino's death) a Spanish grandee, referred to in biographical references only as Don Alvaro. In 1938, she was reported as living permanently in Spain.

Q. What is the cost of the fine roller skates that are used by experts who appear in amateur competitions?—H. A. R.  
A. These people use skates with precision ground bearings and custom-made shoes that cost as much as \$125.

## Mountain Mists

Careless of man and all man thinks and feels  
The clouds go flooding round the mountain crest,  
Wave after wave that cancels, then reveals  
The spiky dome, the pale and blue-eyed west.  
With amethyst streamers from a dwindling sun,  
And pearl-shell fringes and gray-purple flanks,  
They rush like animate beings; overun  
The ridged horizon-line in drowning ranks.  
How long, before man came, the vapors lurled  
Great floats and pinnacles round the trailless peak!  
How long those monarchs shall invade a world  
Where no foot marches, and no voice can speak!  
Yet their impetuous squadrons, like a sea,  
Image life's tumult, change and pagantry.

Stanton A. Coblentz